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ABSTRACT

This instructional unit combines a study of the Soviet leader V. I. Lenin with a study of libraries. Lenin was selected as the focus because of his support of books and libraries and because he oversaw a revolution that altered the political and social structure of Russia and the balance of power throughout the world. Included are lesson plan activities and examples, as well as a review of "Libraries in the USSR." This review helps the social studies instructor prepare a course of study about Lenin. The unit is intended for use with secondary students and needs three or more class periods to complete. The goal of the curriculum unit is that students studying Lenin will identify the need to support and use libraries. (BT)

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Libraries and Lenin.

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INTRODUCTION:

BOTH SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER AND LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALIST ARE CONCERNED WITH THE ACHIEVEMENT OF STUDENT SKILLS NEEDED TO USE INFORMATION SERVICES THROUGHOUT LIFE.

THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONAL UNIT COMBINES A STUDY OF LENIN WITH A STUDY OF LIBRARIES. LENIN WAS SELECTED AS THE FOCUS BECAUSE OF HIS SUPPORT OF BOOKS AND LIBRARIES AND BECAUSE HE OVERSAW A REVOLUTION THAT ALTERED THE POLITICAL AND SOCIAL STRUCTURE OF RUSSIA AND THE BALANCE OF POWER THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

INCLUDED ARE LESSON PLAN ACTIVITIES AND EXAMPLES, AS WELL AS, A REVIEW OF LIBRARIES IN THE USSR. THIS REVIEW WILL AID THE SOCIAL STUDIES INSTRUCTOR PREPARING A COURSE OF STUDY ABOUT LENIN.

MORE EMPHASIS ON COMPREHENSION SKILLS WITH LESS DEPENDENCY ON TEXTBOOKS DETERMINES INDIVIDUALIZED READING AND RESEARCH IN ALL THE SOCIAL STUDIES CONTENT AREAS. STUDENTS MUST LEARN TO IDENTIFY THE MANY ASPECTS OF LIBRARY USE AND APPLICATION TO MEET ACADEMIC AND WORK REQUIREMENTS.

CURRICULUM AREA:	SOCIAL STUDIES/ LIBRARY SCIENCE
ACTIVITY:	V.I. LENIN
GRADE LEVEL:	SECONDARY
PARTICIPANTS:	CLASS, MEDIA SPECIALIST, TEACHER
TIME:	THREE OR MORE CLASS PERIODS
RESOURCES:	BOOKS ABOUT V.I. LENIN AND HIS TIME PERIOD BOOKS ABOUT LIBRARIES AND LIBRARY USERS REFERENCE MATERIALS: ENCYCLOPEDIA, HISTORICAL ATLASES, BIOGRAPHICAL SOURCES, BOOKS OF FAMILIAR QUOTATIONS, CD ROM DATA BASE
NON-PRINT MATERIALS:	VIDEOTAPES, INTERNET

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

COMPARE THE GOVERNMENT OF LENIN TO PRESENT-DAY RUSSIA

RESEARCH THE HISTORY OF LIBRARY USE WITHIN SOVIET UNION/RUSSIA

RESEARCH THE HISTORY OF LIBRARY USE WITHIN USA OR STATE

TRACE THE HISTORY OF LENIN AND CREATE A TIMELINE

TRACE THE HISTORY OF LIBRARIES AND CREATE A TIMELINE

CONSTRUCT MAPS OF RUSSIA DURING LENIN'S LIFETIME, THE SOVIET UNION AFTER WWII, AND PRESENT-DAY RUSSIA

CREATE A CHART OF LIBRARY SERVICES WITHIN THE U.S. AND WITHIN RUSSIA TODAY

CREATE A POSTER OF LENIN, ADVERTISING LIBRARY USAGE

DETERMINE WHICH OCCUPATIONS TODAY REQUIRE KNOWLEDGE OF LIBRARY RESEARCH SKILLS

ACTIVITY EXAMPLE:

LENIN TIMELINE

1870	BIRTHDATE
1889	MARXIST
1892	PRACTICED LAW AT SAMARA
1897	EXILED TO SIBERIA
1898	MARRIED NADEZHDA KRUPSKAYA
1899	COMPLETED THE DEVELOPMENT OF CAPITALISM IN RUSSIA
1902	WHAT IS TO BE DONE?
1905	TWO TACTICS OF SOCIAL-DEMOCRACY IN THE DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTION
1912	CONVENED BOLSHEVIK PARTY CONFERENCE AT PRAGUE
1917	ASSUMED LEADERSHIP OF REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT
	IMPERIALISM THE HIGHEST STAGE OF CAPITALISM

THE STATE AND REVOLUTION

1918 ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT

1922 DEATH

"FOR GOOD OR ILL, FEW, IF ANY, OF HIS CONTEMPORARIES IN ANY COUNTRY HAVE INFLUENCED HISTORY MORE THAN HE."

--DONALD W. TREADGOLD

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

ACTIVITY EXAMPLE:

LIBRARY TIMELINE

200 BC	"A SANATORIUM FOR THE MIND" -- FOUND ON THE PORTAL OF THE LIBRARY AT ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT
1611	"MY LIBRARY WAS DUKEDOM LARGE ENOUGH" -- SHAKESPEARE
1751	"NO PLACE AFFORDS A MORE STRIKING CONVICTION OF THE VANITY OF HUMAN HOPES THAN A PUBLIC LIBRARY" --SAMUEL JOHNSON
1840	"THE TRUE UNIVERSITY OF THESE DAYS IS A COLLECTION OF BOOKS" -- CARLYLE
1887	"A LIBRARY IS BUT THE SOUL'S BURIAL-GROUND" -- H.W. BEECHER
1919	"WE MUST TAKE UP THE SIMPLE AND URGENT MATTER OF MOBILIZING THE LITERATE TO COMBAT ILLITERACY. WE MUST UTILIZE THE BOOKS THAT ARE AVAILABLE AND SET TO WORK TO ORGANIZE A NETWORK OF LIBRARIES WHICH WILL HELP THE PEOPLE TO GAIN ACCESS TO EVERY AVAILABLE BOOK; THERE MUST BE NO PARALLEL ORGANIZATION, BUT A SINGLE, UNIFORM, PLANNED ORGANIZATION" -- LENIN
1995	"MANY SCIENTISTS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE BEING EXCLUDED FROM THE INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE OF SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION BECAUSE THEIR LIBRARIES CAN NO LONGER AFFORD TO SUBSCRIBE TO LEADING RESEARCH JOURNALS" -- W.W. GIBBS
1995	"JAMES H. BILLINGTON, A FORMER PRINCETON HISTORY PROFESSOR IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S LEADING EXPERTS ON RUSSIAN CULTURE AND IS ALSO THE U.S. LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS" -- J.N. MACLEAN

1996 "THE NONPROFIT LIBRARY OF AMERICA IS CELEBRATING ITS BEST YEAR EVER" -- MAX RUDIN

RESOURCE:

1995. **THE ENCYCLOPEDIA AMERICANA INTERNATIONAL EDITION.**

VOLUME 17, PAGES 307-373:

HISTORY OF THE LIBRARY

LIBRARIES IN NORTH AMERICA

LIBRARIES AROUND THE WORLD

THE LIFE CYCLE OF INFORMATION

THE LIBRARY PROFESSION AND SOCIETY

RESOURCE:

SOCIAL STUDIES INSTRUCTOR/MEDIA GENERALIST REVIEW OF **LIBRARIES IN THE USSR**

In my role as a public school instructor (media/social studies), I have been assigned to schools, with the responsibility of organizing the school media center by weeding materials and purchasing materials.

Weeding often involves discarding materials which are no longer appropriate for the present student body, based upon ethnic and cultural background. This viewpoint necessitates my personal review of books, requiring me to search through not only the stacks, but also, vertical files, professional literature, and storerooms.

Often, I find print that has been stored away for one reason or another, but is of current interest. Such is with the book, LIBRARIES IN THE USSR. In the June 1993, AMERICAN LIBRARIES, I read "From totalitarianism to democracy: Russian libraries in transition", and believe that my review of LIBRARIES IN THE USSR will prove interesting to those professionals and researchers who are now following the changes in the former Soviet states.

I have excerpted freely from LIBRARIES IN THE USSR, a book of 87 pages, which describes Soviet library services after the October 1917 Revolution in Russia, highlighting the importance of libraries and books, especially by Lenin.

The author is Deputy Chief Librarian of the Lenin Library in Moscow, Ogan Chubaryan, Doctorate, Educational Sciences, and Chairman of the Committee on Library Theory and Research under the International Federation of Library Associations (c. 1972).

The opening section of this review incorporates statements by notables regarding the role of books and reading in the USSR. This is followed with an annotated list of libraries and illustrations. [2]

Perhaps this review offers support to the previous article by Evgeny Kuzmin, in which he states, "Unlike the old Communist leaders, their democratic successors have, I'm afraid, only a vague idea of the political mission of libraries in society." Certainly, I respect the importance Lenin placed upon literacy and libraries, having "found" this historical treasure in an storage file cabinet.

THE ROLE OF BOOKS AND READING:

Lenin: "We must make books accessible to the masses as soon as possible. We must strive to distribute the greatest possible number of books all over Russia."

Herbert G. Wells (c. 1920): "In this strange Russia of conflict, cold, famine and pitiful privations, there is actually going on now literary task [sic] that would be inconceivable in the rich England and the rich America today. . .In starving Russia hundreds of people are working upon translations, and the books they translante are being set up and printed, work which may presently give a new Russia such a knowledge of world thought as no other people will possess." [For further reading: RUSSIA IN THE SHADOWS]

V. Seminsky: "But depite all my know-how, I can frankly tell you that if books were suddenly to disappear -- not only manuals, handbooks and descriptions of what my colleagues are doing at other plants, but even novels and stories -- I would find myself at a loss for the simple reason that to rationalize, whether this concerns something sophisticated or of a simpler nature, one must have a creative bent which

one will not have unless one is well read, technologicaly and otherwise. All this has to come from books either imparting the know-how of workers who are tops in their field or novels that describe how such people live." [4]

[Elected Deputy to the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine and a Turner at the Krasny Excavator Works (Kiev)]

B. Yegorov: "It was no picnic to invent the winding bench, which was later exhibited in New York. There were times when I wanted to chuck the whole idea. But I would get to thinking of the never-say-die grit of such fine Russian mechanics as Kulibin, Polzunov, Lavrov, Nartov, Matrosov and Kazantsev and I'd give it another try. I'd learned about them only from books. And I've read an awful lot about invention, rationalization and innovation. When they saw the machine I'd devised some Americans said it was just so much Red propaganda, that no ordinary working man could have made something like that. They simply can't understand what Soviet government has done for the plain workingman, how eager he is for knowledge, how great are his opportunities for creative work." [Mechanic and Fitter at computor and calculating machine factory in Moscow]

Yuri Gagarin: "A good book is not only a pleasant and sensible way of relaxing. It's a friend and counsellor, a source of many new ideas and feelings. A favourite book of mine is Boris Polevoi's STORY OF A REAL MAN, whose hero was

for me a living model of endurance, valour and patriotism." (of Konstantin Tsiolkovsky's OUTSIDE THE EARTH): I'm astounded how correctly this remarkable scientist of ours foresaw everything that I myself had occasion to experience! Very much of what he had surmised proved to be 100 per cent right." [World's first spaceman] [5]

The author notes the following books which have inspired composers: Aram Khachaturyan's SPARTACUS ballet from Giovagnoli's novel; Sergei Prokofieff, Tikhon Khrennikov, Yuli Mentus and Dmitri Kabalevsky based their operas on Tolstoi's WAR AND PEACE.

Maxim Gorsky: "The book is perhaps the greatest and most complex of all the wonders man has worked on his way to future happiness and might."

Tolstoi: "Books are printed to be read!" [Tolstoi had a personal library of 22,000 books and periodicals at his estate in Yasnaya Polyana, and always willing to lend them.]

LIBRARIES FOR THE PEOPLE

E. Virla: "I am quite convinced that I am right in saying that no other man has spoken so clearly, repeatedly and in such voluminous detail about the tasks and significance of libraries and has had so broad and all-inclusive and really prophetic vision of the highly important and promising work

that libraries do as Lenin." [Chief Librarian of the Helsinki City Library] [b]

Lenin: "This will accelerate, intensify and make more effective the people's eager quest for knowledge. That is when education will advance by leaps and bounds." [from THE WORK OF PEOPLE'S COMMISSARIAT FOR EDUCATION, regarding library care and management]

Nadezhda Krupskaya: ". . .to get library management in the Soviet Republic organized in such a way that a dense network of various types of libraries would promptly provide everyone without exception with the books needed, gratify the ever mounting mass urge for knowledge, widen their horizons and meet their requirements."

"Lenin gave more thought to libraries and library matters than any other thinker and statesman in the world. In his works we find upwards of 270 pertinent articles, reports, speeches, letters, telegrams, drafts of government decisions, and other documents which add up to an integral, composite programme suggesting how libraries should serve the people in a socialist society. . .In fact, there is not a single aspect of any importance in this field which Lenin would have omitted. Besides stating the principles underlying the library's social role, he also went into such

matters as the augmenting of library holdings, the hours of work ('from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily, not excluding Sundays and holidays'), the area looked after (between 1-1 1/2 kilometres in radius), the regularity of book exchange, etc. [7] All this was done for the sole purpose of enabling the masses to have the broadest access to public libraries. In 1920, despite the country's dire straits, Lenin posed the task of organizing'. . .50,000 libraries and reading-rooms. This would give no less than three for each volost, and certainly one for each factory and military unit.'" [O.S. Chubaryan]

CPSU Central Committee: ". . .it was necessary to have mass literature play a more instrumental role than heretofore in mobilizing the masses to tackle the main political and economic tasks. . ." [late 1920s]

John Reed: "All Russia was learning to read, and reading -- politics, economics, history -- because the people wanted to know. . .The thirst for education, so long thwarted, burst with the Revolution into a frenzy of expression. . .Russia absorbed reading matter like hot sand drinks water, insatiable." [author, TEN DAYS THAT SHOOK THE WORLD]

Lenin: "It is not enough to abolish illiteracy, it is necessary to build up Soviet economy, and for that literacy alone will not carry us very far. We must raise culture to a

much higher level."

[8]

Nadezhda Krupskaya: "The library gets the best and necessary books across to the masses, helps the reader to pick the book he needs, and advises him as to what to read." [Lenin's wife]

Leonid Brezhnev: "Today progress is so swift in all fields that the education received by young people is only a foundation that requires the constant acquisition of knowledge." [at the 24th CPSU Congress]

A. Nesmeyanov: "Libraries and books represent the nerve centre of the Academy of Sciences, without which its scientific work could not keep going. For that reason I dare say that hardly any other aspect of the Academy's activity could compare in importance with the library work." [academician]

BOOKS, THE WORKER'S COMPANION!

[factory library motto]

Lenin: "We must take up the simple and urgent matter of mobilizing the literate to combat illiteracy. We must utilize the books that are available and set to work to organize a network of libraries which will help the people to gain access to every available book; there must be no parallel organizations, but a single, uniform, planned organization." [1919]

LIBRARIES FOR THE PEOPLE

(manuscript sub title for following section)

Sixteen thousand library buildings were built between 1966-70 at state expense; and by c.1972 there were 360,000 libraries. The following is a period listing: [10]

Matenadaran or Armenian Book Depository: founded in the 5th century in Echmiadzin; famous for its translations into Armenian from early writings. Noted collections include: THE LIFE OF MESROP MASHTOTS by Koriun, relating the history of the Armenian alphabet; HISTORY OF ARMENIA by Movses Khorenatsi; records of the Aghvans of Northern Azerbaijan.

Vilnius University Library: founded in 1570 at College of Jesuits; noted for OPUS DE UNIVERSO by Phabanus Maurus, Lithuanian encyclopaedic work; KOMUNISTAS, file newspapers from the Central Committee of the Lithuanian Communist Party.

Moscow University Library: founded by Mikhail Lomonosov in 1756; collection of 19th century scientific writing and Marx's CAPITAL and CONTRIBUTION TO THE CRITIQUE OF POLITICAL ECONOMY, as well as, Lenin's ISKRA and Herzen's KOLOKOL.

Academy of Sciences Library: founded in 1714; collection of rare books and manuscripts including Fiol Swajpolt's BOOK OF HOURS and LENTEN HYMNAL, Franz Skorina's RUSSIAN BIBLE, Ivan Fyodorov's ACTS OF THE APOSTLES (1564, first printed Russian book),as well as, Peter the Great's collection of ancient manuscripts, his letters, and his private papers.

"On its fiftieth anniversary in 1972 the library was decorated with the Order of the Red Banner of Labour for the fruitful work it has done to popularize the best in foreign literature and culture in the Soviet Union." [Chubaryan]

USSR State Scientific and Technical Library: founded in Moscow in 1958; exchanged material with libraries in 45 countries.

Saltykov-Shchedrin Public Library: opened in 1814, and in 1972, contained 17 million volumes and an annual readership of two million. Collections include the published works of Pushkin (5,000 volumes), the personal libraries of Voltaire and Plekhanov, books and periodicals in 85 Oriental languages (accounts of the Tai Ping Rebellion and the 1,300 volumes of the wood-block printed Chinese literary encyclopaedia), and Russian Folk lubok prints.

Repubican Youth Library of the Russian Federation: Organized in 1966, to "investigate problems connected with library service for young readers and provide methodological guidance to libraries" (p. 66), held one half million books and 120,000 recordings. The 1971 circulation reached 1,200,000. Youth services included: "get-togethers" with writers, scientists, and personalities; foreign-language studies; poetry and hobby clubs; conferences, debates, and librarian discourse.

Lenin Library: Named in 1924, for Lenin, the library is located in downtown Moscow, and is " 500 years younger than the Paris National Library, 100 years younger than the British Museum Library, and 50 years younger than the US Library of Congress" (p. 68). The library was decorated with the Order of Lenin in 1944, for its services, and by 1972, had a depository of 25 million books and a staff of 2,500. The readership was 2,500,000 annually. Daily attendance reached 10,000. An inter-library loan system included Soviet and foreign cities, and US Library of Congress, Paris National Library, British Museum Library, and Royal Library in Stockholm. In 1970, exchanges amounted to 3,743 libraries in 94 countries. The collection included: ARCHANGEL GOSPEL (1092); Herzen, Gogol, Nekrassov, Dostoyevsky, Korolenko, and Chekhov manuscripts; Marx, Engels, and Lenin editions; THE SOVIET READER (30-volume study of library bibliographical classification, a Leniniana index, and bibliographical index of the works of and about Nadezhda Krupskaya, Lenin's wife); and BOOK ABOUT BOOKS. The Library was also the center of librarianship studies.

LIBRARIES IN THE USSR also contains a section of illustrations:

The Lenin Book Palace in Ulyanovsk -- Lenin's boyhood library. [13]

Children's Regional Library in Tyumen.

"During the dinner break" -- a worker reading a library book.

"Household chores can wait when it comes to reading" -- a photo of a woman.

"Before the Revolution the Northern nationalities did not have a written alphabet of their own. Today they read literature in their own native tongues and in Russian" -- a photo of two women in traditional dress, reading.

Regional Library in Perm.

Kanev (children's library).

Kazakh State Library in Alma-Ata.

"Mail delivery at a Kamchatka state farm" -- a photo of persons receiving printed matter; snow scene.

Soviet citizen library.

Leningrad Electrosila Corporation -- technical library with motto: "The Book is the Worker's Companion".

Red Yarang mobile library for reindeer breeders of the Yamalo-Nenets National Area.

Ostrov town library, Pskov region.

Kirghiz Republican Library.

Linguaphone facilities.

Ukraina collective farm library, Khmelnitsky.

USSR State Public Scientific and Technical Library, Moscow.

Karelian Autonomous Republic State Public Library, Petrozavodsk.

Moscow University Library.

Saltykov-Shchedrin Public Library, Leningrad.

The Matenadaran, Armenia's national book depository.

Vilnius University Library.

Lenin Library.

State Library of Foreign Literature, Moscow.